GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:491
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2001
CORRUPTION IN PDS OUTLETS
VIJAY GOEL

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is rampant corruption in the retail outlets of Public Distribution System in various States;

(b) if so, the number of complaints the Government have received during the each of last three years from the public in each State; and

(c) the action taken against the accused where the charges have been substantiated?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR)

(a),(b) & (c) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b) & (c) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 491 FOR ANSWER IN THE SABHA ON 20.04.2001.

(a),(b) & (c) : Public Distribution System (PDS) is an operation of vast magnitude under the joint responsibility of the Centre and State Governments involving multiple agencies including about 4.63 lakh Fair Price Shops (FPSs) in the country. The Central Government is responsible for procurement, storage and transportation of the PDS commodities upto the designated depots and making them available to the States. The responsibility of distribution to the consumers through the Fair Price Shops and administration of the PDS rests with the State Governments and UT Administrations.As a large network of PDS outlets is engaged in the system,the possibility of corruption at FPS and other levels cannot be ruled out.

Complaints received by the Government from public generally relate to non-availability and irregular supply of PDS items at FPS, overcharging by the FPS owners and black marketing of PDS commodities. The number of complaints received in the Ministry (State-wise) in respect of retail outlets received from public during the last three years is given below:

S.No.	State	Years		
		1998	1998	2000
1.	Delhi	2	8	14
2.	Uttar Pradesh	-	6	24
3.	Madhya Pradesh	1	-	3
4.	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	4
5.	Haryana	-	-	5
6.	Bihar	2	6	16
7	Rajasthan	1	-	14
8.	Punjab	-	-	2
9.	Kerala	-	-	1
10.	Chandigarh	-	-	1
11.	Maharashtra	-	-	2
12.	Karnataka	-	1	-

13. Orissa - 1 -
14. West Bengal 2 - -
15. Arunahcal Pradesh 1 - -

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Such complaints generally involve criminal offence and have been forwarded to the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations for appropriate action as necessary. As per reports received, in case the charges of the complaints are substantiated, the State Governments take suitable action under the law.